

Rhetoric, Philosophy, & Technology

Upper Division Seminar/Grad Class

From *tekhne* as a 'crafted vessel' and *logos* as reason, this class takes up the question of technology as indicative of the fundamental human condition of being in the world. From Odysseus's craftiness to Latour's Actor Network Theory, technology stands as a human vessel for situated thought & as a response to human *thrownness*. We'll look at the Philosophy and Rhetoric of Technology in Hellenic culture, in Enlightenment writing, and in Twentieth Century philosophical thought. We'll also take account of current impulses in the genre, giving a glance at the rhetoric of the humanities. This course gives sufficient preparation for advanced work in Rhetoric and Technology, a strong theoretical background for work in technologies of composition, and a philosophical foundation for work in Digital Humanities.

Requirements

Weekly Participation, in class and online
Weekly Analytic & Interpretive Writing
Two mini paper proposals (3-4 pp) (Due in Weeks 7 & 12)
Term Paper (Due at Final Exam Session)

Reading Schedule

Classical Rhetoric, Philosophy and Technology

Week 1: Plato's *Meno*, *Theaetetus*. Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*

Week 2: from Plato's *Republic* on technology: Ring of Gyges, Line/Sun/Cave similes. *Phaedrus*.

Week 3: from Aristotle's *Nichomachean Ethics* on *tekhne*, *praxis*, & *arete*. from Homer's *Iliad* & *Odyssey*

Week 4: Seneca's *Epistles* as technology of *philia* and cleanup

Enlightenment (17th-19th c.) Philosophy & Rhetorics of Technology

Week 5: from Hobbes' *Leviathan* on the body as technology; from Descartes' *Discourse on Methodology* on the dream of pure craft. from Rochester on the body's alterity.

Week 6: from Kant's *Critique of Judgment* for the dream of a self-ordering system. Automatic tool creation as a means of ordering oneself. from Swift's poetry and *Modest Proposal*.

Week 7: from Carlyle *Past and Present* & *Sartor Resartus*. from Nietzsche from *Human all too Human* and from *Gay Science*.

Twentieth Century Philosophy & Rhetoric of Technology

Week 8: Heidegger "The Question of Technology" and from *Poetry Language Thought*. from Donna Haraway, *Simians, Cyborgs & Women*.

Week 9: Derrida-- "Freud and the Scene of Writing" (*Writing and Difference*). *Paper Machine*. from *Ear of the Other*.

Week 10: Foucault: read *Technologies of the Self*. Read "Technological Power of Individuals." Deleuze on "Rhizomes" & "Delirium." Butler on *Giving an Account of Oneself*.

Contemporary Rhetorics of Technology

Week 11: from Lev Manovich, *Language of New Media* and *Software Takes Command* and from Matt Kirschenbaum, *Mechanisms*.

Week 12: from Kate Hayles, *How We Became Post-Human* and *Writing Machines*. from Andrew Feenberg, *Questioning Technology*. from Don Ihde, *Ironic Technics*.

Week 13: Network Theory. from Bruno Latour, *Aramis* and *Reassembling the Social*. from Manuel Castells, *Rise of the Network Society*

Week 14: Gadamer from *Truth and Method* and *Cultural Hermeneutics*.